

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 21 and 25 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claims 19, 20, 23, 24, 26 and 30 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) An image processing apparatus comprising:
input means for inputting reduced image information of image data;
analysis means for analyzing the reduced image information;
setting means for setting a correction parameter of the image data on the basis of an analysis result; and
correction means for correcting the image data on the basis of the correction parameter.
2. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means inputs the reduced image information contained in a file of the image data.
3. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the reduced image information is reduced image data.
4. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said apparatus further comprises display means for displaying the image data, and the reduced image data is a preview image displayed on said display means prior to the image data.

5. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the reduced image information is a pointer for reduced image data.

6. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises printing means for printing and outputting the image data corrected by said correction means, and the correction parameter is a parameter for printing of the image data.

7. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said setting means generates a table on the basis of the correction parameter.

8. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the table is a color look-up table.

9. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the correction parameter is a gamma correction parameter.

10. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises reduced image generation means for generating reduced image data on the basis of the reduced image information input by said input means, and said analysis means analyzes the reduced image data generated by said reduced image generation means.

11. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises instruction means for instructing one of automatic setting and manual setup for image data correction processing, and when said instruction means instructs automatic setting, said analysis means searches for image information to be analyzed in a predetermined order and analyzes searched image information.

12. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said analysis means searches for a gamma correction tag and a reduced image of the image data in the order named.

13. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein when neither the gamma correction tag nor the reduced image of the image data are searched, said analysis means analyzes the image data itself.

14. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the image data has a gamma correction value in one of an information tag and a resource file in a self file.

15. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein when said instruction means instructs manual setup, said instruction means further sets the correction parameter.

16. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said instruction means simultaneously sets a gamma correction value and a color look-up table as correction parameters.

17. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said instruction means sets a reference average value of pixels and a correction intensity as correction parameters.

18. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said instruction means sets upper and lower limit values of correction as correction parameters.

19. (Currently amended) An image processing method applied to an apparatus capable of storing a plurality of files where image data is recorded, comprising:

a setup step of setting up a file to be processed and an execution schedule;

a search step of searching the [[a]] file to be processed corresponding to satisfying a predetermined condition;

a calculation step of analyzing image data stored in the file to be processed
and calculating a correction parameter;

a storing step of storing a correction parameter in a tag of the file to be processed; and

a control step of automatically controlling an execution of said calculation step in response to the execution schedule set up in said setup step at an execution timing set according to user's designation.

20. (Currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 19, wherein, in said setup step, the file to be processed and the execution schedule are the predetermined condition used in said search step is set up according to user's designation; and the predetermined condition includes a type of file or a date condition or both.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 19, further comprising a setting step of setting a condition to be used in-said calculation step in accordance with user's designation.

23. (Currently amended) A recording medium comprising program codes of an image processing method, at least comprising:

program code to set up a file to be processed and an execution schedule;
program code to means of a search the step for searching a file
corresponding to be processed satisfying a predetermined condition;
program code to analyze means of a calculation step for analyzing image
data stored in the file to be processed and to calculate calculating a correction parameter;
program code to store the correction parameter in a tag of the file to be
processed; and

program code automatically means of a control step for controlling
execution of said code to analyze image data in response to the execution schedule set up

~~in said setup step calculation step at an execution timing set according to user's designation.~~

24. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
holding means for holding image data in a predetermined file format;
analysis means for analyzing the image data;
calculation means for calculating a correction parameter of the image data
on the basis of an analysis result; and
addition means for adding the correction parameter as extension tag information to a file of the image data.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 24 [[25]], further comprising:
correction means for correcting the image data on the basis of the tag information of the correction parameter added by said addition means.

27. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said apparatus further comprises printing means for printing and outputting the image data corrected by said correction means, and the correction parameter is a parameter for printing of the image data.

28. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the correction parameter is a gamma correction parameter.

29. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising:
setting means for setting the image data from a plurality of image data as data to be processed.

30. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising:

setting means for setting an a series of execution schedule schedules of said analysis means, said calculation means, and said addition means.

31. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said apparatus further comprises setting means for setting a detailed parameter for determining the correction parameter, and said correction means calculates a correction parameter on the basis of the detailed parameter set by said setting means and corrects the image data on the basis of the correction parameter.

32. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said apparatus further comprises selection means for selecting, as a parameter to be used, one of the correction parameter added by said addition means and the correction parameter based on the detailed parameter set by said setting means, and said correction means corrects the image data on the basis of the correction parameter selected by said selection means.

33. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the detailed parameter includes one of an average density value, a correction range, and a correction intensity.

34. (Withdrawn) An image processing method comprising:

- an input step of inputting an image file;
- a determination step of determining whether or not the image file includes preview image information;
- a setting step of, in a case where the image file includes preview image information, analyzing the preview image information and setting an image processing condition; and
- a generation step of, in a case where the image file does not include preview image information, generating preview image information from original image information stored in the image file, wherein the preview image information has a smaller amount of data than that of the original image information.

35. (Withdrawn) The image processing method according to claim 34, wherein in said setting step, the image processing condition is set as an extension tag information of the image file.

36. (Withdrawn) The image processing method according to claim 35, further comprising a correction step of performing correction processing on the image information based on the tag information as an image processing condition.

37. (Withdrawn) A recording medium comprising program codes of an image processing method, at least comprising:

code means of an input step of inputting an image file;

code means of a determination step of determining whether or not the image file includes preview image information;

code means of a setting step of, in a case where the image file includes preview image information, analyzing the preview image information and setting an image processing condition; and

code means of a generation step of, in a case where the image file does not include preview image information, generating preview image information from original image information stored in the image file, wherein the preview image information has a smaller amount of data than that of the original image information.

38. (New) An image processing apparatus capable of storing a plurality of files where image data is recorded, comprising:

a setup unit configured to set up a file to be processed and an execution schedule;

a search unit configured to search the file to be processed;

a calculation unit configured to analyze image data stored in the file to be processed and calculating a correction parameter;

a storing unit configured to store the correction parameter in a tag of the file to be processed; and

a control unit configured to automatically control an execution of said calculation step in response to the execution schedule set up in said setup step.

39. (New) An image processing method comprising the steps of:
holding image data in a predetermined file format;
analyzing the image data;
calculating a correction parameter of the image data on the basis of an analysis result; and
adding the correction parameter as extension tag information to a file of the image data.

40. (New) A computer-readable storage medium including program codes for image processing, comprising:
program code to hold image data in a predetermined file format;
program code to analyze the image data;
program code to calculate a correction parameter of the image data on the basis of an analysis result; and
program code to add the correction parameter as extension tag information to a file of the image data.